

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 EA-07 ACDA-07

DHA-02 /113 W

-----150227Z 082847 /14

P R 150104Z APR 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3173

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, DM

SUBJECT: UNSC DEBATE ON BENIN

REF: USUN 1109

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

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1. SC MET MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF APRIL 14. AFTER HEARING
MANY SPEAKERS (DETAILS SEPTEL), COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION
BY CONSENSUS. US SPOKE IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE. UK, CANADA,
FRG, VENEZUELA DID NOT SPEAK DURING THE ENTIRE DEBATE.

2. TEXT OF RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

THE SECURITY COUNCIL,

HAVING CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MISSION TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN ESTABLISHED UNDER RESOLUTION 404 (1977) (S/12294 AND ADD.1),

GRAVELY CONCERNED AT THE VIOLATION OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATE OF BENIN, DEEPLY GRIEVED AT THE LOSS OF LIFE AND SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY CAUSED BY THE INVADING FORCE DURING ITS ATTACK ON COTONOU ON 16 JANUARY 1977,

1. TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MISSION AND EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED;

2. STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE ACT OF ARMED AGGRESSION PERPETRATED AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN ON 16 JANUARY 1977;

3. REAFFIRMS ITS RESOLUTION 239 (1967) WHICH, INTER ALIA, CONDEMNS ANY STATE WHICH PERSISTS IN PERMITTING OR TOLERATING THE RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES AND THE PROVISIONS OF FACILITIES TO THEM, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF OVERTHROWING THE GOVERNMENT OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS;

4. CALLS UPON ALL STATES TO EXERCISE THE UTMOST VIGILANCE AGAINST THE DANGER POSED BY INTERNATIONAL MERCENARIES AND TO ENSURE THAT THEIR TERRITORY AND OTHER TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR CONTROL, AS WELL AS THEIR NATIONALS, ARE NOT USED FOR THE PLANNING OF SUBVERSION AND RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND TRANSIT OF MERCENARIES DESIGNED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY MEMBER STATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS;

5. FURTHER CALLS UPON ALL STATES TO CONSIDER TAKING NECESSARY

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MEASURES TO PROHIBIT, UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE DOMESTIC LAWS, THE RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND TRANSIT OF MERCENARIES ON THEIR TERRITORY AND OTHER TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR CONTROL;

6. CONDEMNS ALL FORMS OF EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL MERCENARIES TO DESTABILIZE STATES AND/OR TO VIOLATE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF STATES;

7. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT OF BENIN IN ASSESSING AND EVALUATING THE DAMAGE RESULTING FROM THE ACT OF ARMED AGGRESSION COMMITTED IN COTONOU ON 16 JANUARY 1977;

8. APPEALS TO ALL STATES TO PROVIDE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN IN ORDER TO ENABLE IT TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE AND LOSSES INFILCTED DURING THE ATTACK;

9. NOTES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BENIN HAS RESERVED ITS RIGHT WITH RESPECT TO ANY EVENTUAL CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION WHICH IT MAY WISH TO ASSERT;

10. CALLS UPON ALL STATES TO PROVIDE THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITH

ANY INFORMATION THEY MIGHT HAVE IN CONNEXION WITH THE EVENTS IN
COTONOU ON 16 JANUARY 1977 LIKELY TO THROW FURTHER LIGHT
ON THOSE EVENTS;

11. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE IM-
PLEMENTATION OF THE PRESENT RESOLUTION;
12. DECIDES TO REMAIN SEIZED OF THIS QUESTION. UNQUOTE

3. TEXT OF US EXPLANATION FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

THE UNITED STATES WAS ABLE TO JOIN IN THE RESOLUTION
BEFORE THE COUNCIL BECAUSE OF ITS CONCERN AT THE ARMED
ATTACK ON BENIN AND THE LOSS OF LIFE AND DAMAGE OF PROPERTY
SUFFERED BY THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF BENIN. WE WANT TO
EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF BENIN THROUGH THEIR
DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, THOMAS BOYA.
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THE UNITED STATES ALSO WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN AT
THE APPARENT VIOLATION OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF
BENIN. AS MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL KNOW EVERY WELL, THREATS
TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN STATES HAVE BECOME A
SERIOUS PROBLEM, WHETHER BY MERCENARIES OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF
ARMED INTERVENTION. MORE THAN MERE LIP SERVICE -- AND
SELECTIVE CONCERN -- MUST BE PAID TO THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY IF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY ARE TO BE
MAINTAINED.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS BRIEFLY THE VIEWS OF MY
GOVERNMENT ON THE QUESTION OF MERCENARIES AND COMMENT ON
OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION.

UNDER UNITED STATES LAW IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE FO
ANY PERSON TO RECRUIT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IN THE UNITED
STATES FOR SERVICE AS A SOLIDER IN FOREIGN ARMED FORCES OR
FOR ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES FOR
SUCH SERVICE. IN THE EVENT THAT THERE IS EVIDENCE OF SUCH
ACTIVITY TAKING PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES, MY GOVERNMENT
WILL MOVE VIGOROUSLY TO INVESTIGATE, AND WHERE SUFFICIENT
EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE, TO PROSECUTE. WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE
USE OF MERCENARIES TO INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
OTHER COUNTIRES AND ARE COMMITTED TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF OUR
LAWS CONCERNING THE RECRUITMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AS
MERCENARIES.

WHILE A LITERAL READING OF PARAGRAPH 4 AND 5 OF THE
RESOLUTION WOULD INEVITABLY POSE PROBLEM FOR ANY GOVERNMENT
IN TERMS OF EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLING ACTIVITIES OF ITS CITIZENS

OUTSIDE ITS TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION, THE UNITED STATES WILL
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT ITS LAWS ON THE SUBJECT ARE
COMPLIED WITH STRICTLY SO AS TO DISCOURAGE AMERICAN CITIZENS
FROM BECOMING INVOLVED IN ANY TYPE OF UNLAWFUL MERCENARY
ACTIVITY. UNQUOTE

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END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. COMMENT: THIS DEBATE INCLUDED THE MOST ACRIMONIOUS
EXCHANGE OF CHARGES AND ALLEGATIONS BETWEEN AFRICANS STATES
HEARD IN THE SC IN A LONG TIME. ALL NON-AFRICAN AND MANY
AFRICAN STATES STAYED AS FAR AWAY FROM THE LINE OF FIRE AS
POSSIBLE. FRANCE WAS THE ONLY NON-AFRICAN STATE ATTACKED,
AND PERM REP LAPRETTE RESPONDED IN A QUIET, RESTRAINED MANNER.

5. ERUPTION OF OPEN ACRIMONY VISIBLELY DISTRESSED MEMBERS OF
THE AFRICAN BLOC, WHO DECRY THIS LAPSE IN GROUP UNITY IN
EVERY CORRIDOR CONVERSATION. IT SEEMED TO BE AN IRRESISTIBLE
TEMPTATION; EVEN AMB RAMPHUL OF MAURITIUS FAILED TO STAUNCH
THE FLOW OF BITTER WORDS BY HIS EFFORTS TO LECTURE SHAME
INTO THE AFRICANS. THE REST OF US OBSERVING ON THE SIDELINES
DO NOT YET HAVE A FEEL FOR THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS
EPISODE. THE SHOCK FOR THE AFRICANS, THOUGH, IS APPARENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBATES, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INVASIONS, MERCENARIES, UNSC RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01121
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770130-0918
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770450/aaaabrv.tel
Line Count: 201
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 88ebcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 1109
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2788504
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNSC DEBATE ON BENIN
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PGOV, US, DM, UN, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/88ebcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009